



February 25, 2013

Brad Hittle
Two Roads Brewing Company
Written Testimony in support of
HB 6212: An act concerning wine tasting at package stores

Senator Doyle, Representative Baram and members of the Committee. My name is Brad Hittle and I am the CEO of the Two Roads Brewing Company located at the former U.S. Baird factory at 1700 Stratford Avenue in Stratford. Some look at the idle, old manufacturing buildings that dot the landscape throughout New England and see blight. When we saw the proud old "U.S. Baird Building", we saw a beautiful symbol of America's past manufacturing might, and the opportunity to revitalize a great piece of history! Two Roads Brewing Co. opened last December and now has a large tasting room where customers sample our beers as well as enough space for events and private parties.

I cannot comment on the proposed tasting legislation before you today without first thanking you for last year's legislation that made our tasting room concept a reality. Prior to passage of the Sunday liquor sales law, breweries were not allowed to sell beer by the pint and were only allowed to offer samples--that change in Connecticut law made our brewery possible.

We, like so many craft breweries in Connecticut, are building a business and employing many people in our state. We are off to a great start with 19 employees so far and we hope to bring 70 jobs to Stratford in the coming years.

The proposed tasting legislation is an important measure that will allow Two Roads and other Connecticut Craft Breweries to market their beer in package stores around the state and expose our Connecticut customers to the superior taste of our products. This legislation will help to grow our businesses, and our payrolls.

- **HB 6212: An act concerning wine tasting at package stores**

While the proposed bill only addresses wine, we would ask you to widen its reach to all tastings. The current regulations apply to all tasting and they are not separated by type of product. We believe the number of tastings should be unlimited and only constrained by the space, staff and supply of a given retail outlet. With the growing number of craft breweries in Connecticut it is important that a package store has the opportunity to provide tastings of all types of beers. If these tastings continue to be limited to only four open bottles at a time, a store can never have a "Connecticut Craft Brew Tasting" or a "Connecticut Wine Tasting" because the store would be forced to pick winners and losers by virtue of this four bottle limit.

Even though I think beer is the best product that package stores sell, I understand that others love wine and yet others like distilled spirits. By limiting tastings to just four open bottles at one time deprives the Connecticut consumer the ability to sample before they buy.

Thank you for your past support of our industry and I hope you will again provide us with the tools to grow Connecticut's economy.

BRAD HITTLE

